

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 15-22 have been amended from method to device claims, such that all of these claims ultimately depend from device claim 5. Claims 23-27 have been cancelled.

Unity of Invention Requirement

The claims of the present application have been subjected to a Unity of Invention Requirement as follows:

Group I – claims 1-14 directed to a fractionation device or a circuit of a fractionation device; and

Group II – claims 15-23 previously directed to a method for separating biological components.

Claims 15-22 have been amended to recite “device” embodiments and depend ultimately from device claim 5, while claim 23 has been canceled.

Election and Request for Withdrawal of Requirement

Applicant hereby elects the subject matter of Group I, i.e. claims 1-14. It is submitted that the amendments to claims 15-22 also place these claims into the elected subject matter category, since all of these claims include all the features of the elected claims. Thus, it is submitted that the Requirement has been rendered moot. It is respectfully requested that the Requirement be withdrawn.

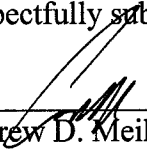
It is submitted for the reasons above that the present claims define patentable subject matter such that this application should now be placed in condition for allowance.

If any questions arise in the above matters, please contact Applicant’s representative, Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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